IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 7 with the following paragraph:

-- What is characteristic of the stereomicroscope in a second embodiment is that when the high-magnification objective lens is fitted, the condenser lens is not disposed between the specimen and the deflection mirror, and, only when the low-magnification objective lens is fitted, a condenser lens 24 is disposed on the optical axis 70. The condenser lens 24 is mounted on the same slide mechanism 74 as in the first embodiment and is set on and off the optical axis 70 by sliding the lever 10. Further, in the stereomicroscope in the second embodiment, the deflection mirror 23 does not incorporate the light shielding function, and a stretchable light shielding plate 21 is disposed between the deflection mirror 23 and the field lens 27. Configurations other than this are the same as those in the stereomicroscope in the first embodiment, and the repetitive explanations thereof are omitted. --

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Replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 24 with the following paragraph:

-- In the second embodiment, the following is the reason why it is taken such a structure that the condenser lens is not disposed between the specimen and the deflection mirror when the high-magnification objective lens is fitted. As explained in the first embodiment, the entrance pupil of the high-magnification objective lens exists closer to the light source than the specimen surface and, even when the condenser lens is not provided, exists in the vicinity of the deflection mirror 23. Hence, the field lens 27 is designed so as to form an image of the light source 1 in the position of the entrance pupil of the high-magnification objective lens, whereby the image can be projected on the entrance pupil of the high-magnification objective lens even if no condenser

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lens is provided. Further, an aperture angle of the image of the light source 1 is determined by F-number of the field lens, and hence, if the aperture angle is set large by decreasing a focal length of the field lens, the aperture angle of the image of the light source 1 can be set equal to or greater than the aperture angle of the high-magnification objective lens even when there is not the condenser lens. Accordingly, the second embodiment takes an option that the condenser lens is not used when fitting the high-magnification objective lens by designing the field lens 27 in the way described above. --

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 32, line 2 with the following paragraph:

-- Note that the distance between the specimen setting board 60 and the deflection mirror 23 is reduced for thinning the base 51, and therefore the entrance pupil of the high-magnification objective lens is positioned closer to the light source 1 than the deflection mirror 23 in the stereomicroscope in the second embodiment. For this reason, the stretchable light shielding plate 21 is used. Depending on some of the high-magnification objective lenses, however, the position of the entrance pupil becomes different, so that the position of the entrance pupil may be set at the reflecting surface of the deflection mirror 23. In this case, the deflection mirror 7 with the light shielding function in the first embodiment may be used as the deflection mirror 23. --

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 39, line 13 with the following paragraph:

-- According to a preferred mode of the present invention, it is feasible to provide the stereomicroscope capable of forming the image of the light source at the entrance pupil of the objective lens or in the position conjugate to the entrance pupil thereof, and therefore performing the bright and uniform transmission illumination. --